(d) whether Government have examined the causes for not achieving the target by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. No special plan has been formulated to bring down Total Fertility Rate in Himachal Pradesh, since the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of Himachal Pradesh is already showing a declining trend. It has come down to 2.14 as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-II, from 2.97 reported in NFHS-I.

The National Population Policy, 2000 aims at achievement of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 by 2010. Himachal Pradesh is already very close to attainment of this goal and therefore, needs no special plan for this.

Malnutrition among children

2575. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.S. Swaminathan Foundation (MSSF) and World Food Programme (WFP) had brought out very recently an Atlas titled "Food Insecurity Atlas of Urban India", which indicated that a large number of children in Indian cities suffer from extreme malnutrition;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such a situation; and

(c) the efforts being made to avoid such malnutrition among city children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) As per publication of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and World Food Programme, which is primarily based on the report by National Family Health Survey 1998-99, in the country as a whole only 11.6% of the children less then 3 years old are severely under-weight.

(b) The main factors that are responsible for severe malnutrition are combination of several factors such as inadequate food, poor socio-economic status leading to low purchasing power, high rate of population growth and low access of population to health services, non-availability of safe drinking water, female illiteracy etc.

(c) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem. In this regard, the Government have, *inter-alia*, taken various steps to improve agriculture production and the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes. It also makes available the essential food items at subsidised rates through Public Distribution System. The Government is also implementing a number of schemes like Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meal Scheme), Pradhan Mantri Grammodaya Yojana etc. for this purpose. The efforts are also being supplemented through supply of foodgrains to needy States by World Food Programme (WFP), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everwhere (CARE) etc.

Liver-related diseases

†2576. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that liver-related diseases are taking the shape of epidemic in the country and any national policy has not been evolved to control this disease;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the main reasons for increase in the liver-related diseases are lack of knowledge and awareness; and

(c) if so, the numbers of Hepatitis-B patients in the country alongwith the number of liver cancer cases and to what extent Government are serious about the treatment of these patients and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) As per information available, the liver-related diseases such as Viral Hepatitis including Hepatitis-B reported for the year 2001 are less than those reported for the year 2000. Lack of awareness is also one of the reasons for liver-related diseases. The measures taken by the Government to control the spread of Hepatitis-B are as under:—

* Mandatory screening of all blood donations for HBsAG at Blood Banks.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.